

TRIBUTE TO GREG COOKE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in great sadness to pay tribute to my good friend and one of Texas' most outstanding public servants, Greg Cooke. Greg Cooke passed away recently at the age of 51.

Mr. Cooke served as the top ranking EPA official in the area that encompasses Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico.

Mr. Cooke was an outstanding and dedicated citizen, and his commitment to Texas was instrumental in developing clean air plans for both Dallas-Ft. Worth and Houston-Galveston in partnership with the State of Texas. These plans contained innovative provisions that incorporated economic incentives, as well as, traditional mandatory measures. His clean air plans also included development of an innovative "compact" to facilitate early compliance with EPA's upcoming 8-hour standard for such cities as Austin and San Antonio, Texas.

Mr. Cooke served as Regional Administrator of EPA Region VI for the past 4½ years. He was appointed to the post by President Clinton and was the only political appointee in the EPA retained by current President George W. Bush.

Greg Cooke exuded class—not only in the way he practiced law but also in the way he lived his life. He had a straight-ahead, just-the-facts writing style that belied his passion for environment.

Mr. Speaker, with Greg Cooke's passing, we have lost an impressive individual and a true leader. He championed the interests of Texas and environmental issues. Greg Cooke was a caring and compassionate man and a tremendous political leader and public servant. I extend my deepest sympathy to Greg Cooke's family.

TRIBUTE TO THE CROATIAN SONS
LODGE NUMBER 170**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate the Croatian Sons Lodge Number 170 of the Croatian Fraternal Union on the joyous occasion of its 99th anniversary and Golden Member banquet on Sunday, September 24, 2006.

This year, the Croatian Fraternal Union will hold this gala event at the Croatian Center in Merrillville, Indiana. Traditionally, the anniversary celebration includes a ceremonial appreciation of the Union's Golden Members, those who have achieved 50 years of membership. This year's honorees that have attained 50 years of membership include: Angeli Cirrincione, Barbara Demers, Rosemary Gard, Catherine Grceovich, Catherine Jelovcic, Elizabeth Lukacek, Nikola Majetic, Margaret J. Milos, Virginia A. Mostak, Ruth Jean Mrzlak, Rudolph J. Pavletich, Sandra Louise Regan, Luandre Rozmanich, Robert Lee Scott, Ann

Louise Smoljan, Mary Ann Troksa, and Madeline Vukobratovic.

These faithful and devoted individuals share this esteemed tribute with 482 additional Lodge members who have previously attained this significant designation.

This memorable day will begin with a morning mass at Saint Joseph the Worker Catholic Church in Gary, Indiana, with the Reverend Father Stephen Loncar officiating. The Brace Tamburitza Orchestra will perform at this gala event. A formal dinner banquet in the afternoon will end the day's festivities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Lodge President Betty Morgavan, and all the other members of the Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge Number 170, for their loyalty and radiant display of passion for their ethnicity. The Croatian community has played a key role in elevating the quality of life and culture of Northwest Indiana. It is my hope that this year will bring renewed possibilities, admiration, and success for all members of the Croatian community and their families.

RECOGNIZING BROCK SMITH FOR
ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE
SCOUT**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brock Smith, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 633, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brock has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Brock has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Brock held the principal leadership position of Senior Patrol Leader and has actively supported the Southern Platte County Athletic Association in Kansas City, North.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brock Smith for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, on September 19, 2006, I was absent for votes for personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted: Vote No. 451, H. Con. Res. 210 Supporting Elimination of Cancer by 2015, "yea"; Vote No. 452, H. Res. 622 Honoring Filipino World War II Veterans, "yea"; Vote No. 453, H. Con. Res. 415 Condemning the Repression of the Iranian Baha'i Community, "yea."

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
TOM MCCAFFREY**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Tom McCaffrey, beloved husband, devoted musician, and teacher to so many. Mr. McCaffrey dedicated his life to encouraging and inspiring Clevelanders and brought them that which they had never felt and taught them the joy, warmth, power and strength of Irish traditional music.

Mr. McCaffrey was born in 1916, in Mohill, County Leitrim, Ireland, where he worked on the family farm until coming to America in 1955. Mr. McCaffrey was unable to resist the allure of music and at 10 years of age he took up the life and flute. After a year of flirtation with the woodwinds, Mr. McCaffrey found his true love and calling in the fiddle. For knowledge Mr. McCaffrey turned to his father, also a teacher and player of the fiddle, and sought all musicians who traveled through town. It was not long before he mastered the fiddle and with his fine, strong voice, Mr. McCaffrey was requested at local festivals and dances. In Cleveland, he teamed up with Tom Byrne, a master flute player and fellow inspirer, to record the album *Irish Music From Cleveland*. Mr. McCaffrey and Mr. Byrne had a lifelong friendship full of music and laughter.

At the age of 83, Mr. McCaffrey found his other great love, Alice Kelly. Mr. McCaffrey was known to always have a smile and story ready and never hesitated to share his wealth of knowledge or his music. Recorded at the Smithsonian Institute, Mr. McCaffrey's music will truly live on in those whom he taught and in the hearts of all that have heard him play.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mr. Tom McCaffrey, whose smile, charm, wit, and Irish wisdom will be remembered and shared and whose memory will live in the tunes and tales. I offer my deep condolences to his wife, Alice, to all his family and friends, and to the many who have been inspired and touched by all that he has given.

PROVIDING FOR EARMARKING RE-
FORM IN THE HOUSE OF REP-
RESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of real, comprehensive lobbying and earmark reform, and in opposition to H. Res. 1000. While Republican leaders claim that this legislation is earmark reform, major loopholes in their bill allow future boondoggles like the Alaskan Bridge to Nowhere to pass through Congress without full public scrutiny. Further, the bill abandons any lobbying reform to end the Republican culture of corruption—typified by the Jack Abramoff and Duke Cunningham scandals.

The Republican majority has allowed these scandals and pet projects to run rampant, underscoring the dire need for comprehensive